THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) has signed, on 10th August, 1990, a contract with the Malaysian Railway Administration for the doubling of 88. 3 km. of Railway Track between Rawang and Seremban, in Malaysia. The project is to cost Rs 90 crores and is to be executed in Two and half years. IRCON is already handling a contract for rehabilitation of 327 Km. of track between Singapore to Paloh and Slim River to Seremban in Malaysia.

2768. *[Transferred to the 5th* Sep. *tember,* 1990].

2769. *[Transferred to the 5th Sep. tember* , 1990].

Purchase of Forest Produce by TRIFED

2770. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleas ed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tribal Cooperative Markeing Development Federation of India Limited is exporting Niger seed, Gum Karaya, Tendu leaves, Sal sted extractions and other Tribal products within two years of its inception;

(b) if so, whether there has been an increase in procurement prices and what has been the improvement in prices realised by tribals;

(c) what quantum of funds are earmarked for price support operations in minor forest produce, Agricultural products in tribal areas;

(d) whether Government are con sidering exclusive canalisation through the Tribal apex body to rea lise better prices and to avoid middle men cornering profits; if so, the de tails thereof; if not, the reasons for not considering such a scheme; and

(e) whether minor oilseed extractions are an excellent source of carbohydrates for the cattle feed, just as Soya extractions from the source of protein; if so, what funds are being earmarked to TRIFED for development of these minor oilseed extrac-, tions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRIFED is exporting Niger seed, Gum Karaya, Tendu leaves and Sal seed extractions. There has been an increase in procurement price of some of the commodities which are exported by TRIFED or for which procurement have been undertaken. This can be seen from the statement at Annexure. *(See* below).

(c) TRIFED has been appointed as an agent of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of only wheat and paddy from the tribal areas during last year. In addition to this, TRIFED on its own had undertaken procurement of Agricultural produces such as Mustard Seed, Jowar, Maize, Ragi at prices fixed by Government of India under price support scheme. There is a budget provision for the current financial year 1990-91 of Rs. 1 crore for meeting of, losses if any under price support scheme.

(d) The export of Gum Karaya has already been canalised through TRIFED from July, 1988 onwards. Export of Niger Seed has also been canalised jointly through TRIFED and NAFED from December, 1989.

(e) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Spon sored Scheme for Development of Oils and Oilseeds of Tree and Forest Ori gin in Tribal Areas is in operation through TRIFED for giving financial assistance to States for augmentation of collection of tree and forest based oilseeds. Budget provision during the current financial year for the said scheme is Rs. 180 lakhs.

Statement

Del lils of the commodity being exported by TRIFED and the prices being paid to tribals before its inception and the increase made by TRIFED in the price of (he same

(Price in Rs. /Qtl.)

SI. No.	Name of the Commodities	Prices being paid to tribals before inception of TRJFED	Increase of Prices by TRIFED 1988-89	1989-90
1.	Nijjer Soed.	450 to 550	500 to 650	591 fixed
2.	Gum Karaya Grade-I.	1400	1800	2600
	Grade-H.	800	1600	2300
		600	1400	2000
3.	Sal Seed.....	95.	120	150

Identification of sick Fertilizer units

2771. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have iden tified the ailing and sick fertilizer units;

(b) what are the factors responsible for the sickness and poor performance of those units;

(c) the names of those units which are running at loss; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DE. VELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA); (a) and (c) Yes, Sir; the sick fertilizer companies in the public sector are the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCT) and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC).

(b) The main factors responsible for poor performance are low capacity utilisation on account of power shortage, design deficiencies, old and obsolete technology, equipment break-downs, poor work culture, sur. plus manpower and also because the coal based technology as used for the first time in the case of FCI's plants at Ramagundam and Talcher..

. (d) With a view to improving the profitability of the fertilizer plants, several schemes for revamping, modernisation, installation of captive power plants etc. are being implemented/formulated. ■

पशु चिकित्सा अनुसंधान केन्द्र

2772. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के तत्वावधान में देश में बहुत से स्थानों पर पशु चिकित्सा अनुसंधान केन्द्रों की स्थापना की गई थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन केन्द्रों के नाम क्या हैं, और ये कहां-कहां स्थित हैं ;